

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of two pieces of legislation coming to the floor this week, the Child Care Is Essential Act, and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act.

This pandemic has exposed fault lines that exist just beneath the surface of our society. Whether it is a broken healthcare system or the consequences of our Nation's history of racial injustice, this pandemic is exacerbating harms done by systems that fail our families. Our system of childcare is no exception.

Childcare is a powerful tool for educating our children and for fueling our economy. If we unite around its utility and take decisive action to save the childcare sector, we can help rebuild and revitalize our future.

Simply put, childcare is essential. But ignored, underappreciated, and neglected for so long, our system of early care and education is now at a breaking point.

Right now, 40 percent of our Nation's childcare centers and family childcare homes will be forced to close permanently without immediate financial support. Our children, moms, dads, doctors, nurses, teachers, small business owners, and over 23 million families will have nowhere to turn.

Think about that. Before this pandemic, it was difficult and sometimes nearly impossible for working families to find quality, affordable childcare. If the pandemic destroys 4 out of every 10 childcare spaces, how will parents return to work? How will businesses reopen? How many children will be pushed out of their classrooms?

Great outcomes for an entire generation of children are at stake and could be impacted for years if we don't invest now in early care and education. With proper investment, childcare can combat the economic and social inequities of our time, in addition to providing a foundation for our children. What is more, with an investment in childcare, we can stabilize and secure American families.

Before the pandemic, childcare costs often exceeded a family's rent or mortgage payment, driving parents out of the labor market entirely. Parents of color face even more hurdles and costs in finding affordable, high-quality care.

Economists are predicting that losing access to childcare is not just about losing 2 or 3 years of income. It is an entirely different trajectory for the rest of a parent's life. This also disproportionately impacts women in the workplace.

The rising costs of childcare are associated with a 13 percent decline in employment of mothers with children under 5. Investing in childcare is about ensuring moms can pay the bills and pursue their dreams. It is also an investment in opportunity and in equality for our Nation's mothers.

These bills will also honor our Nation's caregivers, who provide an essential service to our children, economy,

and community. In an industry where 96 percent of childcare professionals are women, and 40 percent of them are women of color, over 325,000 have lost their jobs since February. This workforce is already underpaid, many of them barely making minimum wage.

Our failure to value the work of caregivers is one of the many examples of how our society and how Congress fails to value women's work and, especially, the work of women of color.

Finally, it is not just our families who rely on childcare. Childcare is essential to our entire economy.

A survey from Northeastern University tells us that during the pandemic, working parents lose, on average, a full day of work productivity every week due to a lack of childcare. We know that has repercussions for our businesses.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that in one State alone, a lack of childcare is estimated to cost employers almost as much as \$3 billion annually in lost productivity, absences, and turnover rate.

The solution is not complicated. The problem we face is solvable. The two bills before us are a critical first step. Our Nation needs to seize this opportunity to provide equity in education, parity for women, and stability in our economy.

That is why I urge my colleagues to pass the Child Care Is Essential Act and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act. It is time to invest in our children, our women, and our economy.

SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL WORKERS IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a strong, reliable food supply chain is important 365 days a year. But COVID-19 has underscored just how much we rely on this essential industry in times of crisis.

The men and women who work to provide our Nation with the food, fiber, and energy that we depend on each and every day are among the unsung heroes in this crisis.

In April, I introduced the GROCER Act to establish a Federal tax holiday for our grocery store and convenience store employees from February 15, 2020, to June 15, 2020. The bill benefits individuals making less than \$75,000 a year and gives the Treasury Secretary the discretion to extend this benefit for an additional 3 months.

To build on the support for the GROCER Act, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS and I introduced the AG CHAIN Act.

The AG CHAIN Act extends the GROCER Act to the entire food supply chain defined by recent Department of Homeland Security guidance. That includes our farmers, ranchers, meatpackers, distributors, and more. It also builds on the GROCER Act to in-

clude a payroll tax exemption in addition to the Federal tax holiday.

Supporting our essential workers in the food supply chain is something that Republicans, Democrats, and everyone in-between can get behind.

A recent poll showed support from the public as well. According to the Morning Consult, 90 percent of voters consider agricultural and food production workers essential, and 93 percent consider grocery store workers and convenience store workers essential. When it comes to providing tax relief to the essential workers who keep our grocery stores and our farms operational, two-thirds of voters supported some kind of tax relief for these individuals.

□ 0930

Those numbers speak for themselves, Mr. Speaker.

We all depend on a strong food supply chain to feed our families. Even in times of crisis, the shelves and coolers in our grocery stores have remained stocked. Now, that would not be the case if we were not blessed with such a hardworking and resilient agriculture industry.

Food security is national security, and employees in the food supply chain are working overtime to ensure crops are harvested, shelves and coolers are stocked, and Americans have food on the table.

The AG CHAIN Act is a simple way to say thank you to the hardworking men and women across the full spectrum of the food supply chain. It is a commonsense way to support these workers, and it is a way to put more of their hard-earned money back into their own pockets.

Today and every day, I am grateful for the hard work of our food supply chain workers, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the AG CHAIN Act.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE PASSING OF MY FRIEND JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes in part:

Life is real!
Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art to dust returneth,
Was not spoken of the soul.

John still lives in most of us because his soul, his spirit, and his heart still live.

Mr. Speaker, like all Americans, I reacted with deep sadness to the passing of my friend, Congressman John Lewis. John and I served together for 12 years in Congress, and I was so proud to have known him as a colleague, a mentor, and a friend.

A lot has been said about the man that John Lewis was, but what strikes me the most is the man that he never became.

For a person who faced virulent hatred, he was never a man who hated.

For a person who stood as a focal point for an entire movement, he never focused the lens on himself.

For a person born to segregation, he never excluded others from the movement for equal rights.

For a person whose voice pierced the air like a foghorn, he never spoke empty words.

For a person to whom grace was too rarely extended in his life, he never allowed himself to withhold it from those around him.

For a person who was at the center of the Nation's gravest affairs, he never passed up an opportunity to laugh or to dance.

From his refusals, he became the man whom we admire so profoundly. John's death comes at a turbulent time for our country, and his loss is sharply felt by the many who still fight for equality in our country.

Young Black Americans struggling for equal treatment, women fighting for equal pay, LGBTQ advocates pushing for equal protection, marginalized people striving to protect their right to vote, and young leaders yearning for equity in a nation that has denied it for too long saw in John a model for perseverance, humility, courage, and leadership.

We could not be forgiven for despairing the loss of such a man as John Lewis in these times. But I think John would tell us to do otherwise. I think he might say that the movement for equality and equity in our Nation did not start with him and it shouldn't die with him.

He might look around at the newest generation of remarkable young Black and Brown leaders in technology, social justice, business, education, public service, and every other walk of American life and feel confident that, while the work remains, the fight is in good and capable hands.

He, undoubtedly, would look at the progress we have made and the struggles ahead and tell us not to dwell too long on the passing of one leader, however impactful, because there is just too much work to do.

But that is hard. It is hard for me, and I imagine it is hard for you. Congressman John Robert Lewis was more than an icon; he was a real person, perfect in his imperfections, and I will miss him dearly.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OF THE LEFTIST MOB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Pennsylvania responsibly and carefully sanitized the podium up here before I began my 5-minute remarks, but I will tell you that there is not enough disinfectant in all of the District of Columbia to sanitize this Chamber on account of my

Democrat colleagues who fail to condemn what has been going on in what once were great American cities throughout this Nation. It is shameful, Mr. Speaker.

Leaders are elected to this great body with its history and with the full confidence of the American people that we will call evil by its name. But they sit idly by and are complicit in their silence and do not condemn the chaos, the destruction, the violence, the crimes, and the terrorism that is ravaging our Nation.

As we speak and as we sit in this quiet and peaceful Chamber, there are citizens—our fellow Americans—who feel that their lives and their private property are threatened. They can't even bear arms with their constitutional right to protect themselves and their property without being prosecuted by some rogue city attorney.

We have got to stand up to this mob. We have to say: No more will you burn our cities; no more will you terrorize our communities and intimidate and use fear to squelch any attempt by our local leaders to stop this now.

But they are intimidated, Mr. Speaker. The local leaders have completely bowed the knee to these leftist extremist groups that have hijacked peaceful protest.

There are folks with righteous indignation who have taken to the streets to speak their truth to power, and I respect that. God bless them. That is the American way.

We just celebrated one of the greatest who demonstrated peacefully and, through love for his country and his fellow man, made more difference than 1 million mobs could have. His name is John Lewis, and I am honored to have served with him.

But what is happening right now is these local leaders are either unwilling or incapable of stopping it. This weekend was 2 months of persistence in this violence and in the crimes perpetrated against Federal officers and local law enforcement who have been hamstrung to even defend themselves, let alone the property that they have been asked by their "courageous leaders" to defend. They are getting fireworks shot off in their face.

Where are the city leaders?

Where is Mr. Biden? He is safe in his basement. That is courageous leadership? That is what America needs right now?

Criticize President Trump all you want. He is at least doing something to stand up to the mob and protect taxpayers' Federal property.

Our Federal law enforcement officers are doing their job faithfully and dutifully while our citizens' rights are being completely trampled. There is no pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness in these cities. They are burning.

Protesters in California set fire to a courthouse, damaged police stations, and assaulted officers, ABC says: "in peaceful demonstrations that have intensified."

Are you kidding me? In Texas, we call it bull with the end of that word with a T.

Mr. Speaker, you know it. You know that these things are happening, and they wouldn't happen in parts of Texas because the citizens would not allow it.

What do we do with fireworks, broken windows, spray paint, and lasers being shot at them?

Seattle experienced an antipolice riot where 59 police officers were injured by arson, vandalism, and assault. I have got the list of Federal crimes right here. These people ought to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. They should be locked up away from the citizens who are just trying to live out their lives in this great Nation.

These are the Federal crimes: advocating to overthrow the government, aggravated assault and battery, arson, assault with a deadly weapon, attempting to kill an officer, conspiracy to impede or injure an officer, and demands against the U.S.

This is domestic terrorism as defined by the statutes that we stand on and that we have debated. They say that domestic terrorism is violent crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to respect that you gavelled me out because I respect the rules of this Chamber, so I thank you for the indulgence.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 24 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of all creation, thank You for giving us another day.

Continue to bless the Members of this people's House as they move through the appropriations process here on the Hill.

This day will be one of preparation for the final return of the beloved John Lewis to the Capitol. We thank You once again for the example of humility, courage, and holiness he set for all Americans, and ask Your blessing that our Nation might move forward dedicated to the same struggle toward the beloved community, and a more perfect Union.

Bless the men and women who attend to those who are sick—and those men and women responsible for the safety and security of our communities throughout the country. May all Americans live and act wisely, being sensitive to the dangers of group dynamics